



**146th Airlift Wing
Office of Public Affairs
California Air National Guard
Channel Islands ANG Station, California**

For Immediate Release

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Improved conditions allow release of Air Guard from firefighting

CHANNEL ISLANDS AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, Calif. -- The Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing was released from aerial firefighting duty Wednesday afternoon as forestry and fire protection agencies aided by improving weather conditions made strong gains against Southern California wildfires.

Aircrews, aircraft maintainers, and command and control personnel operating from this base adjacent to Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, put two C-130 Hercules cargo airplanes equipped for aerial firefighting into the battle against Santa Barbara County's Cachuma fire.

The crews dropped 21,600 gallons of a fire-retardant and water mix Wednesday, using the Modular Airborne Fire-fighting System, or MAFFS. The system is designed to quickly adapt the Air Force C-130 to a fire suppression role and does not require any modifications to the aircraft.

The wing was activated for firefighting Monday afternoon and flew its first of eight missions less than 24 hours later.

For further information contact public affairs officer, at (805) 986-7496.

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